

Bill Includes Driehaus Amendment to Authorize Funding for Sewer Improvements

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today hailed House passage of the Water Quality Investment Act (HR 1262), which includes a measure he introduced to authorize an additional \$700 million for sewer overflow grants. The amendment would expand the current authorization from \$1.8 billion to \$2.5 billion over five years.

“In greater Cincinnati as in cities throughout the country, aging sewer and wastewater treatment systems are posing serious threats to public safety and the environment,” said Rep. Driehaus. “This measure will help clear the way for critically needed investments in our wastewater infrastructure.”

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States needs \$54.8 billion to correct for combined sewer overflows and \$88.5 billion to address problems with sanitary sewer overflows. The combined sewer systems in the United States release 850 billion gallons of un- or under-treated wastewater annually as the result of sewer overflows. This situation poses a serious threat to human health and the environment, and can lead to water quality impairments, beach closures, and drinking water contamination.

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